

The freshwater sponge genus *Umborotula* in Thailand

Nisit Ruengsawang^{1*} and Narumon Sangpradub²

¹*Division of Biology, Faculty of Science and Technology, Rajamangala University of Technology Krungthep, Bangkok 10240*

²*Department of Biology, Faculty of Science, Khon Kane University, Khon Kane 40002*

E-mail: nisit.r@mail.rmutk.ac.th

Freshwater sponge genus *Umborotula* (Porifera: Spongillida: Spongillidae) was established by Penney & Racek in 1968 with monotypic species as *Umborotula bogorensis* (Weber 1890). Biodiversity surveys and distribution of freshwater sponges in Northeast Thailand was carried out during 2014 - 2015. Specimens of *U. bogorensis* with abundant gemmules encrusting on rock and stick substrata were found in a small pool near the King Cobra Cave at Sakaerat Biosphere Reserve, Nakhon Ratchasima Province. The comparison with historical data and type specimen and morphological analysis of present finding specimens by light and scanning electron microscopy were performed to confirm taxonomic validity. The results of photomicrographs reveal the characters of *U. bogorensis* such as megascleres were acanthoxeas (microspined), microscleres absent, and gemmuloscleres were birotules with long spiny shaft. Biogeographic pattern of this monotypic genus *Umborotula* with published record was also presented. The result from this study updates current knowledge of diversity and distribution of freshwater sponges in Thailand.